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MAR 11 2004

In re Application of  
Victor Grubsky et al  
Application No. 10/073,425  
Filed: February 11, 2002  
Attorney Docket No. STADM-60980

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

ON PETITION

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b), filed February 9, 2004, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to reply within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.113 in a timely manner to the final Office action mailed June 13, 2003, which set a shortened statutory period for reply of three (3) months. A reply under 37 CFR 1.113 is limited to an amendment that *prima facie* places the application in condition for allowance or a Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(b)). Since the amendment submitted does not *prima facie* placing the application in condition for allowance, no Notice of Appeal (and appeal fee) was timely filed. Extensions of time under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a) were obtained. Accordingly, the above-identified application became abandoned on November 14, 2003.

An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136 must be filed prior to the expiration of the maximum extendable period for reply. See In re Application of S., 8 USPQ2d 1630, 1631 (Comm'r Pats. 1988). Accordingly, since the \$475.00 extension of time submitted with the petition on February 9, 2004 was subsequent to the maximum extendable period for reply, this fee is unnecessary and will be credited to petitioner's deposit account.

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to Wan Laymon at (703) 305-9282.

The application file is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2874 for processing of the request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114.

Wan Laymon  
Petitions Examiner  
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for Patent Examination Policy